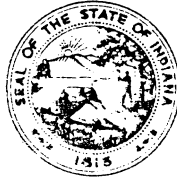


Frank L. O'Bannon
Governor

Richard D. Feldman, M.D.
State Health Commissioner



Indiana State **FILE** Department of Health

An Equal Opportunity Employer

March 11, 1998

Susan Martin, M.D.
Health Officer
Spencer County Health Department
Courthouse, 1st Floor, Room 1
Rockport, IN 47635-1492

Dear Doctor Martin:

Re: Residential On-Site Sewage Disposal
Coal Ash Suitability for Aggregate

This letter is in reference to questions raised by on-site sewage disposal system installers concerning the suitability of coal ash (fly ash, bottom ash and boiler slag) for use in on-site sewage disposal systems.

Staff soil scientists Jerry Thomas and David Tuszynski have reviewed the American Electric Power (AEP) Material Safety Data Sheet for coal ash (fly ash, bottom ash and boiler slag) and the three sample bottles of ash recently supplied to us by Rita Stallings.

Rule 410 IAC 6-8.1-47(b) states, in part, that "aggregate shall be a mixture with no aggregate smaller in size than ½ inch in diameter..." In the samples provided more than 2/3 of the volume of the sample is made up of particles less than ½ inch in size. In addition, David Tuszynski, in a telephone conversation with the chief chemist at the AEP Rockport generating plant, learned that these ashes when wet will cement together.

Coal ash (fly ash, bottom ash and boiler slag) is not suitable for use as aggregate in on-site sewage disposal systems because of small particle size and cementation. These ashes are not suitable as backfill material in subsurface perimeter drains because of cementation.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please call me at 317-233-7177.

Sincerely,

Alan M. Dunn, R.E.H.S., Supervisor
Residential Sewage Disposal
Consumer Protection
AC (317) 233-7177

DAT/

cc: Rita Stallings
Spencer County Health Department
Residential Sewage Disposal Staff
Plan Review Staff